

20 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Graham, General Thomas

SUBJECT: History of NSCIC Working Group Activities - 1972

1. At the first meeting of the NSCIC Working Group in December 1971, members were asked to submit to the Chairman a list of their intelligence needs and their ideas on how to tackle the problem of product evaluation.

2. On the basis of member submissions - NSC did not reply - PRG prepared for the Chairman a work program of 12 projects, grouped under headings of consumer needs, product evaluation, and production improvement. The Work Program proposal was sent to members and at the second meeting in February 1972, the Group elected to go ahead with five projects, four from the work program list, and one proposed by Mr. Marshall.

3. Only one project did not involve a study: the group approved the idea of the DCI sending a letter to Dr. Kissinger asked for his views on how well the DCID 1/2 reflected the intelligence needs and priorities of the White House and the NCS. A second phase of this was for Mr. Marshall to solicit comments from the NSC staff. The letter was sent on 24 February but no formal reply was ever received. Comments were provided by Mr. Marshall.

4. The three projects approved from the work program were: a study of intelligence reaction to a political-military crisis (the India-Pakistan conflict of 1971); a survey of intelligence activities relating to international economic developments; and a study of resources devoted to production by the U.S. intelligence community.

5. The fifth project approved was one identified by Mr. Marshall as being of prime interest to Dr. Kissinger. It was a review of the intelligence inputs to NSSM-69.

6. Under the first chairman, the Working Group sponsored seven studies of an informational or background nature - intended for self-education or as basis for identifying possible future studies. The Justice member asked for a report on US intelligence activities relating to international narcotics traffic; Dr. Proctor

produced a report on the production of economic intelligence in OER; PRG prepared a report, based on submissions from the community, on current intelligence production during the month of April 1972; PRG also produced reports on resources and manpower devoted to intelligence production. The Group's concerns about who was doing what in the economic intelligence production area were not satisfied by the OER report and a follow-on project to report on coverage in other departments and agencies ended up in the Economic Intelligence Committee -- where it is still in work, over a year later.

7. Seven case studies were approved for work: five have been completed, one is still in work, and one was cancelled due to difficulties in getting analysts assigned to work on it. The major effort was the three crisis studies, which resulted in a summary report from the Working Group to the NSCIC, identifying problem areas and recommending actions.

8. Mr. Marshall was the most active member in identifying topics for Working Group consideration. Dr. Hall and Dr. Cline also made several contribution: they both identified the India-Pakistan crisis as a prime target for study, and Dr. Cline originated the request for the survey of economic intelligence production. Dr. Cline also proposed several area studies of intelligence production, from which the Group selected Yugoslavia.

9. The CIA representatives were not active contributors in identifying topics for study, but were vocal in discussions and written comments on topics proposed by others. They were certainly influential in some of the decisions not to pursue a particular topic.

10. The Working Group met five times in 1972, first in February, and last in October. The decision to hold a meeting was based on whether there was an on-going study ready for consideration. Except for the second meeting, held in February, to consider a work program, no meetings were held unless there was action needed on a completed study.

11. The DDS&T attended the first meeting only, and did not make any contribution thereafter. The Justice Department was represented by Mr. Wells at the last three meetings, and subsequently advised in May of 1973 that they would no longer participate except when subjects within their area of responsibility were on the agenda.

12. A variety of topics were surfaced, either at the meetings, or in correspondence, which were not taken under active consideration at the time, but which may still warrant consideration. Attached at Tab A is a list of these subjects. Also attached at Tab B is a detailed breakout of Working Group projects and their disposition. At Tab C is a list of the task groups that performed the studies.

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